

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, April 12, 2011; Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Attendees: Elliot Auerbach, Dave Cox, Ronnie Evans (very briefly), Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Ken Mohring, Martine O'Connor, Frances Scheffel (very briefly), and Myron Strongin.

Eena-Mai Franz opened the meeting at 1:05pm. Before the meeting was officially opened, Roger Stoutenburgh took photos of the six people then present (Dave Cox, Ronnie Evans, Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Martine O'Conner, and Myron Strongin) for an article in the Bulletin announcing the June 15th luncheon.

The minutes of the March 8, 2011 meeting were accepted as presented. Ken Mohring recorded and prepared those minutes because Louise Hanson could not attend the March meeting. Thank you, Ken.

Ken Mohring did not present a Treasurer's Report. There is not much change, just a small amount of additional interest. The next due date for a BREA CD is July 2011.

Old Business:

SeniorNet: Ronnie Evens had to leave, so Eena-Mai read an announcement concerning their upcoming monthly SNUG (SeniorNet User Group) meeting on Tuesday, April 19 on enhancing one's use of Google. SNUG meetings are held at the Huntington Family Service League Building at 3:30pm and are open to the public. Dave Cox has attended them and says they are very informative. He will send out an email "blast" announcing the meeting to BREA members.

BREA newsletter: Eena-Mai Franz passed out a draft of the May Newsletter that she had received from Mona Rowe, who could not attend. Attendees read it through and Eena-Mai said she would pass on our questions and comments to Mona.

E-mail/On-line communication between retirees and BNL: Eena-Mai Franz had invited Bob Lincoln, the new interim head of Human Resources (HR), to today's meeting, but he couldn't make it. She will now try to set up a meeting in his office between him, herself, and the BREA members especially interested in this issue (Arnie Peskin, Mona Rowe, and Dave Cox). The details as to what BNL is offering to do and on what timetable are still unclear. Mona Rowe had reported at the February meeting that "Phase 1" consists of setting up a list-serve containing retiree's email addresses, starting with those who retire this year. When HR does a close-out for a retiring employee, (s)he will be asked for his/her private email and (s)he will be automatically sent "news & events" and the Monday Memo. If people don't want to receive these emails from the Lab, they can unsubscribe. [This is supposed to start happening with people retiring at the end of April.] Mona also said in February that the next thing on the Lab's agenda is to create a web portal with specific links to and postings of information relevant to BNL retirees. Although both these measures will enhance on-line communication between retirees and BNL, neither of them addresses BREA's original concerns, including the forwarding of emails after retirement from a bnl.gov account to a retiree's personal email account.

DOE's Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP): Several people at the meeting have received the informational pamphlet. However, the screeners do not seem to have adopted the very sensible suggestion made by one of our members, that is, to mail to people the associated paperwork so that they can fill out the lengthy forms *before* they arrive at the physician's office.

Annual Luncheon (Wed. June 15, Bellport County Club): The planning is moving along nicely. Martine O'Connor reported that today's photo was for the third Bulletin announcement (the other two appeared in the March 4th and 25th issues). Ronnie Evans has a CD with pictures taken at last year's event for putting together a collage. The VIP guests were agreed upon: Sam Aronson (BNL director), Liz Seubert (Bulletin Editor), Roger Stoutenburgh (photographer), and people from Human Resources who work closely with BREA and retirees in general – Bob Lincoln, Chris Carter, Denise DiMeglio, Melissa Bittrolff, and Joanne Rula.

Spring BREA tour of new BNL facilities (May 18): Ken Mohring reported that the event is all set, we just need people to sign up. He has reserved both conference rooms in Bldg. 400, for coffee first thing in the morning and for lunch.

Contact with retiree organizations at other DOE Labs: A subcommittee was set up at the February meeting to actively pursue this issue. One of its goals was to define what BREA hopes to achieve from these contacts and to decide upon a set of mutual interests and concerns. Because, as Myron Strongin pointed out, that it is complicated to know what to ask, it was suggested today that Bill Hempfling, BNL's retired HR Director, be invited to one of our future meetings. Dave Cox, one of the subcommittee members, reported that he could find no semblance of a retiree's organization at Ames, nor does there appear to be an official retiree's organization at Argonne.

New Business:

Eena-Mai Franz opened a discussion on how BREA can attract the interest and involvement of newer retirees. She strongly feels that BREA would benefit from more active input by its younger members.

May 2011 meeting: Tues, May 10, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

June 2011 meeting: Tues, June 14, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Meeting adjourned at 2:05pm

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson